Rs. 1999.14 crores to the various drought affected States subject, however, to adjustment of balances available in the CRF of these States.

Regulating spurious and misbranded pesticides

1072. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stiffen the penalty for dealers selling spurious and misbranded pesticides, promoted by recent raids on pesticide dealers in Delhi by Plant Protection Division;

(b) the details of such cases investigated and punishment awarded during the last two years;

(c) whether high expenditure on ineffective and fake pesticides, particularly for cotton, is reported to have drained off poor farmers' meagre resources on inputs; and

(d) whether Government would consider appointing a regulatory authority to oversee quality control for pesticides, fertilizers, manures, seeds, to protect farmers; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last two years, 301 licenses were suspended, 710 licenses were cancelled, 800 prosecutions were launched, 154 judgments were obtained and 81 convictions took place for offences under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(c) There is no such report with the Government.

(d) No, Sir. The quality of pesticides in being regulated under the provisions of the insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder and that of seeds, under the Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Similarly, the quality of fertilizers and manures is being regulated under the provisions of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Nominations for Institutions of Ministry of Agriculture

1073. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government institutions/undertakings functioning under the Ministry, in which non-Governmental persons are nominated;

(b) the details of persons nominated in these institutions and the criteria adopted therefor;

(c) whether any person from Gujarat has ever been nominated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Distribution of Drought Relief Funds

1074. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought relief funds were inappropriately distributed to States during the recent drought situation;

(b) whether the highest relief amount was granted to Gujarat, which faced the drought in the initial stages of summer this year, but had an averagely good monsoon later on; and

(c) if so, whether Government intend to constitute a task force under the Disaster Relief Management, that would study any crises situation in all the States on ground level before the Centre allocates its relief funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Distribution of Relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. No memorandum has been received from the Government of Gujarat for assistance in the wake of drought and no amount has been released for the purpose. A task Force on drought Management, headed by Deputy Prime Minister, has already been constituted for taking policy decisions.

CACP Recommendations

1075. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations of the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices, submitted to Government in September, 2002 their revenue implications and the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations tend to benefit the rich farmers only, with little relief to drought-affected marginal and small farmers; and